The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and each other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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O, How wretched
Is that poor man that hangs
on princes' favors!
—Shakespeare.

JUSTICE FOR CHINESE PEOPLE URGED BY PRESIDENT GREEN

Washington, July 18.—The right of China to control its internal affairs is urged by Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., in a letter to President Coolidge.

The trade unionist further urges that the president take the initiative in calling an international conference to make plans to abolish extra-territorial rights in China. Under this system the various world powers that have established themselves in China refuse to recognize the laws of that country.

President Green calls attention to the Washington conference on the limitation of armaments in 1921, which provided for a commission to study this subject, but to date no action has been taken.

"This declaration," said President Green, "was in fact a pledge to help China, then struggling with the problems of reorganization as well as to countries participating in the conference which wished to assure China opportunities for self-development and reorganization.

"There is every reason to believe that the fundamental cause for present disturbances in China is due to special privileges given foreign nations in treaty pacts, and that the abolition of extra-territorial rights of foreigners is necessary to China's administrative integrity and sovereignty.

"The Chinese are an ancient and honorable people who have developed a distinctive culture of rare qualities and they have a right to demand the respect and deference accorded to national sovereignty.

"Because of the fact that present political provocations have paralleled the coming of trade unions in Chinese industrial development, and the struggle of Chinese wage earners for industrial justice and civil rights is projected into the international problem, it is most important and necessary for fully balanced consideration of the whole question that representatives of wage earners participate in this inquiry.

"Our American trade union movement believes firmly that our republic stands for ideals of human justice and equality of opportunity for all and that these ideals must direct not only national policies but our relations with other countries. The Chinese situation is an opportunity for further application of these ideals, and labor earnestly desires that our country act in conformity to the highest ideals of humanism and constructive progress."

LOWER RENT POSSIBLE UNDER NEW STATE LAW

New York, July 18.—Apartments can be built in this city to rent for $9 a room and pay a fair return on the investment. This has been demonstrated by the Metropolitan life insurance company in its report on a $7,000,000 housing experiment.

The company operated under a state law passed three years ago which permits life insurance companies to purchase land and build apartment houses to a limited extent, provided rents to be charged did not exceed $9 per month per room.

In its report on this venture the company said it is usual with real estate men, builders and investors to allow something for vacancies and loss of rent.

"The company made no such allowance, believing that the low rentals and the desirability of the houses would practically eliminate this item," the report said. "The results have proved that the company was right in this assumption, for there has been lost only $406.54 from this cause.

"The company intends at the end of each year to figure 6 per cent on the then book values of the properties, this amount to be used for income. Any amount that is earned above 6 per cent is to be credited to the cost of the properties, thereby making a considerable reduction each year. This will enable it to meet the full taxes beginning in 1932 and still maintain about the same ratio of reduction of cost."

WHAT KIND OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT?

In discussing wage differences between anthracite operators and mine workers, a Washington correspondent says:

"The biggest weapon which the president has at his command today in any efforts he may make to bring about an adjustment of the controversy over anthracite is the force of public sentiment."

To the above, workers will ask: What kind of public sentiment?

Is it to be another wave of terrorism that marked the nation-wide steel strike? That strike was caused by the steel trust's refusal to meet a committee of its workers to discuss working grievances.

At that time Judge Gary said he favored the "open shop"—he wanted to bargain with each individual worker. He refused to recognize any form of collective action by his employes.

The steel trust did not dare go before the public with the truth. Instead the public was terrorized by the story that was shouted from every side: "The government is in danger."

Is that the brand of public sentiment that is to be used against the miners?

The steel trust's tactics were repeated in the shop men's strike, and this made it possible for Daugherty, then attorney general, to use every power of government to aid the railroad managers.

Is the Daugherty hullabaloo to be repeated in the present instance?

A public sentiment is necessary in the present controversy, but not the kind that was manufactured by Gary and Daugherty.

Facts on the mine situation are at the disposal of the government and all others who seek the truth. The United States coal commission investigated this question for more than a year at an expense of $600,000. Those who were loudest in their claim for these facts, now ignore them.

That commission reported on the average low wage of miners, the appalling fatalities and accidents in this industry and the surplus workers who are lured into an industry that is overdeveloped—that has too many workings to supply a fixed demand.

Public sentiment, based on facts, should be welcomed by every one.

A public sentiment that is manufactured by privilege is not only unfair, but it is unhealthy. It indicates that too much power is in the hands of a few and it intensifies an issue that must eventually be squarely and honestly faced.

DAUGHERTY'S ALARMS NOW PASS UNNOTICED

Cedar Point, Ohio, July 18.—Former Attorney General Daugherty threw a few bouquets at himself in a letter he forwarded to the annual meeting of the Ohio bar association.

He referred to the injunction he secured against the shop men. This writ, he declares, is the ideal method of enforcing law and order, but he doubts whether the public is duly grateful.

He likewise puts it on the records that it was he who stood like Horatio at the bridge against a senate committee securing government information. For this he has likewise been attacked by those whom he calls "reds."

When Mr. Daugherty warms up to his subject he proves to be the same old civilization-savior as when he declared, as attorney general, that he would use every machinery of government to maintain the anti-union shop.

"If the American people do not now appreciate the benefits and protection afforded by the injunction proceedings and decree," he warble, "it is only a matter of time until they will do so, to enforce law and order, to perpetuate liberty and to protect the individual citizen in all his constitutional rights. This is also substantially true with reference to the effort of my refusant as attorney general to surrender the confidential files of the government."

Mr. Daugherty concludes his bouquet throwing by a solemn avowal that "the very life of the government depends upon the principles involved in these two official acts."

But times have changed. Those who praised him a few years ago, now fail to notice the shop-worn alarms of their former hero.

YELLOW-DOG CONTRACTS HIT THE OUT-OF-WORKS

London, Eng., July 18.—Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, the British minister of labor, has refused unemployment insurance benefit to a number of youths who declined to sign an agreement that they would not join a trade union.

The youths were offered work as junior apprentices by a ship-building firm and were asked to sign indentures containing a provision that they must not join a union.

The boys refused to sign. Whereupon their unemployment benefit was stopped. An appeal was taken to the umpire, who decided that the condition in the indenture prohibiting trade union membership was not unfair or unjust. The minister of labor approved the umpire's decision.

The current issue of the journal of the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association declares that apprentice indentures in Manchester include a clause prohibiting a youth from joining a trade union until within six months of the termination of his apprenticeship.

"ANTHRACITE COAL SMEARED WITH BLOOD"

Atlantic City, July 18.—"Anthracite coal is smeared with blood," declared John L. Lewis, in addressing a conference with representatives of the anthracite mine owners.

In fancy the trade unionist paraded before the conference the 44,000 mine workers who have been injured since 1923, the 1923 wage conference, the widows and orphans of the 1,000 killed and the dependents of those injured.

"If it were possible to actually hold this parade," said President Lewis, "it would stagger humanity. The people would realize the cost of life and limb for producing anthracite.

"The industry that demands such sacrifices should pay for it. Against the dollar we measure the lives and limbs of our members."

Landlords Boost Rents; Tenants Are Helpless

Washington, July 18.—Washington landlords are advancing rents since the courts declared unconstitutional the federal law establishing a rent commission in the District of Columbia with power to regulate rents in the public interest.

Landlords fought the law as an invasion of their alleged property rights to charge profiteering rentals based on the amount the necessity of having housing accommodations would compel tenants to pay rather than on a fair return on investment.

After the court decision invalidating the rent control act, President Coolidge attempted to persuade congress to enact a new rent control law so framed that it would meet the objections of the judiciary. The local real estate junkers enlisted the support of the national landlord organizations and exerted such a pressure on congress that the statesmen refused to comply with the president's recommendation.

So the landlord profiteers are boosting rents and the recently poor government employes, are under great stress to provide suitable housing for themselves and their families.

FARMS FOR CONVICTS INSTEAD OF PRISONS

New York, July 18.—After a three-years' study of prisons in this state the national committee for mental hygiene recommends that farms be substituted for county prisons. The committee is headed by former Attorney General GeGorge W. Wickersham.

The report, addressed to the governor, the legislature and the people of the state, says county jails aggravate criminal tendencies, injure their inmates and thereby inflict still greater injuries on the state and its citizens.

"A prisoner," says the summary, "when placed on parole and even at the expiration of his parole is a convalescent—from how serious a condition he is convalescent may be seen in the details of this report. Suitable employment should be found for him and skilled and understanding supervision on the part of a psychiatric social worker should be maintained for the first few months of his return to the community."

"SPEED UP" SYSTEM IS NOT EFFICIENCY

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

In seeking to prohibit stop-watch studies in government arsenals, labor is not seeking to restrict production but to prevent the use of methods and principles that would inevitably result in restriction of output.

The position of the American Federation of Labor on production is a matter of record, open to all. The evidence of our belief is manifest in the part that our production record leads the world. We hold that increasingly higher standards of living can be assured only through increases in production. As essential to these parallel advances, we have pointed out there must be opportunities for the producing workers to develop and use their growing abilities.

Human development comes from within; regimentation from without that ignores the will of workers is restricted by its failure to release the highest driving initiative. Any plans to secure highest production must concern itself primarily with power—human as well as mechanical.

The highest powered sustained activity for humans is possible only when the creative resources of workers are released—when the focus is on creative work. Labor wants to make it possible for each worker to make his own best study and work and else that will contribute to the quality of his workmanship.

The first step toward this end is organization of the work group to deal with common problems collectively. Under collective maintenance of standards of justice and right, the workers are free to give themselves unrestrictedly to production problems. This, labor maintains, is a basic principle in scientific organization of production. It is a principle of reciprocal interests and welfare. Where it is violated there develop conflicts and antagonisms which bring restrictions of production. Labor does not oppose industrial changes when it is given opportunity to avert consequent human inequity.

Co-operation for production can not be inaugurated by labor alone. Labor is ready to make agreements with management and to assume responsibilities in the adventure of eliminating waste and perfecting production procedure.

MINE WAGES NOT HIGH, FEDERAL BOARD SHOWS

Atlantic City, July 18.—Figures by the United States coal commission were submitted by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, to disprove the operators' claim that these workers are paid a high wage.

The commission spent a year and $600,000 to investigate the coal industry. In its report to congress the commission said that out of a total of 45,678 outside workers employed at the anthracite mines 45,822 earned less than $2,000 a year and only 1,856 earned more than $2,000.

Approximately 22,000 earned less than $1,000. The man that earned between $1,000 and $2,000 had to work from 251 to 396 days in the year. The 1,856 men who earned more than $2,000 had to work from 292 to 470 days in a year that has only 308 work days.

"These are not the figures of the United Mine Workers of America," said President Lewis. "They are the official figures of the United States government. To earn $1,000 a year, or $83 a month, a man had to work 292 days. To earn $2,000 a year, or $166 a month, a man had to work every day, including every Sunday and every holiday and 105 days of overtime. Where is the American citizen who, after reading these figures, will say that these workers should not have more equitable wages and a better opportunity to earn a living for themselves and their families?"

MARKETING PLAN FAILS; WAS NOT CO-OPERATION

Chicago, July 18.—The failure of Dean, Onativia & Co., Chicago brokers, for $30,000,000, and the collapse of the Grain marketing company, an alleged co-operative venture, indicates that the day has passed when farmers buy gold bricks.

The marketing company proposed to sell stock to farmers and buy private-owned elevators, the title to the money thus raised. One of the elevator concerns that expected to be taken over had large holdings of its stock in the hands of the brokerage firm. When it was discovered that farmers were refusing to buy stock in the marketing company, the stock of the elevator company dropped in value and the brokerage firm was forced into bankruptcy. It was one of the largest failures of its kind.

The farmers refused to buy the marketing company stock because the selling companies overvalued their property. The farmers were suspicious of the over-capitalization of wooden elevators, which were 50 years old and are regarded as fire traps. Several of the farmers' co-operative associations of the middle west fought the grain marketing company and urged their members to stay out. The Indiana securities commission refused to validate the stock issue.

The marketing plan was backed by Gray Silver, president of the American farm bureau federation.

SHUN SANTA BARBARA

Los Angeles, July 18.—The building trades council has warned mechanics to keep away from Santa Barbara, and pay no attention to contrary advice. The council sent representatives to that city, who report that there is sufficient labor in the city to clear debris and prepare for reconstruction. The unionists state that Santa Barbara is in a city of distress and the best way to help it is to keep curiosity seekers and job-hunters away.

POSTAL BUREAUCRATS ANGRY; CAN'T FORGET WAGE DEFEAT

Washington, July 18.—"By constant reference to large impending deficits in operation, due to increased wages, postal department heads are endeavoring to alienate public support from these workers," said Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

"Postal wages today, measured in the real value of the dollar, are about the same as 10 years ago. There is no inflated pay roll, as the postal bureaucrats, who are still incensed at their defeat in efforts to defeat the employes' wage aims, would have postal patrons believe," said Secretary Flaherty.

"It is significant that the post office department makes no mention of a 10 per cent increase in transportation costs, or an increase of 127 per cent in the cost of rent and fuel. Neither does it publicly parade the fact that the higher postal officials—the political appointees and political favorites—received much larger pay increases than the lowly subordinate. The truth is that every element entering into the operation of the postal system is costlier now than in pre-war times. But public attention is being directed to the item of employes' wages. Upon the humble clerk and carrier the whole burden is placed by bureaucrats.

Despite the increased wage, postal labor costs are lower than heretofore, said Mr. Flaherty. The department has instituted speed-up practices under which workers are driven beyond their normal capacity, he said.

The necessity for the post office department to declare a policy is urgent, according to the trade unionist. "Must we insist on making the service show a money profit?" he asks. "The postmaster generals should publicly state their intentions. We find in the Republican campaign text book of 1920 this declaration:

"'The United States postal service should be operated for service rather than for profit.'

"To the same effect, Postmaster General New in his report to the sixty-eighth congress, in December, 1923, said:

"'I believe that the primary function of the department is to render service. Service should be efficient and satisfactory. It should meet the reasonable demands of business and social life. Its cost should be regulated by careful administration along lines of business and economy.

"'When this is secured the question of a strict balancing of expenditures with receipts becomes of secondary importance.'

"There has been a departure from these pronouncements," said Mr. Flaherty. "The public is now told, in effect, that it must pay in advance for its postal service—and pay the exact cost.

"The larger aspects of postal activity—the social service it renders—are subordinated. We are again back in the Burlesonian idea of 'make her pay —let us pile up a money surplus.'"

Crushed Fruit Venders Violate Pure Food Act

Washington, July 18.—Manufacturers who extract part of the juice from fruit and then sell the product "crushed fruit" violate the federal food and drug act and render their "fruit products" liable to seizure by federal officials, declares the bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture in a warning note issued to the manufacturers and the public.

The "crushed fruit" is used largely by bottlers of carbonated drinks and fountain syrup. It is also a constituent of jellies and similar products.

The bureau of chemistry claims that manufacturers deprive the fruit of a "considerable portion of its juice," add sugar and artificial color, and then label the compound "crushed fruit."

The bureau declares that the adulteration and false labeling must end.

PROFITLESS WARS MEAN NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY

Chicago, July 18.—The financial writer of the Hearst papers is out with an impassioned screed protesting against the campaign which it alleged Bernard Baruch and others are carrying on to prevent war by a so-called "confiscation of wealth" to take the profits out of war.

He says the business men of the United States had a taste of this wealth conscription during the world war by means of excess profits taxes, and they don't want to be subjected to a repetition of the process.

If this limited conscription of property by excess profits and similar taxes should be generalized during the next war, Hearst's financial expert claims the result would be a "bankrupted country."

PREVENTABLE SICKNESS COSTS MORE THAN STRIKES

London, England, July 18.—In its fifth annual report the industrial fatigue research board says that the loss of time because of preventable sickness costs the country not less than 10 times more than its losses because of strikes and other labor disputes.

The board expresses doubt as to whether these losses are appreciated by employers and the public generally. It is stated that many million pounds annually could be saved by the application of scientific methods to the functioning of the human element in industry.

BARBERS ORGANIZE

Indianapolis, July 18.—Officers of the Journeyman Barbers' International union have issued charters to locals in Lewiston, Maine, and Stamford, Conn.

BOLLWORM INVASION MENACES COTTON BELT

Washington, July 18.—The $5,000,000 which the federal government has spent for the eradication of the pink bollworm in the south is menaced by the anti-nullification unless the officials of Texas and New Mexico supplement the federal restrictions with state regulations prohibiting cotton seed from infested territories to move to other parts of the state and requiring such seed before having been fumigated, declares the U. S. department of agriculture in a statement regarding its work to free the cotton belt from the bollworm.

The federal department can prohibit the interstate shipment of seed and lint from infested regions, but has no control over the movement within the state. The failure of Texas or western Texas and New Mexico have become so thoroughly infested with the bollworm that it will be impossible for federal and state officials if the scourge is to be prevented from extending throughout the entire cotton belt, declares the department.

STANDARD OIL BOSSES GRANT EIGHT HOURS?

New York, July 18.—The Standard oil company of New Jersey announces the adoption of the eight-hour day in its oil fields. The decision to make the eight-hour day effective is accompanied by a wage decree that materially cuts wage rates so that employes will earn much less under the new regime than the company permitted them to earn under the longer work day.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Elmira, N. Y., July 18.—After a two-weeks' strike, painters raised wages 5 cents an hour. They now receive $8 per day.

STEAM ENGINEERS UNITE

Wichita Falls, Texas, July 18.—Steam and operating engineers in this city have organized.

ENEMIES OF CONSTITUTION IN HIGH PLACES

By VICTOR A. OLANDER
Secretary Illinois State Federation of Labor

When an injunction judge, exercising the power which has the force of law, issues a proclamation, obedience to which has the effect of restraining men in the exercise of their constitutional rights in a manner calculated to improve conditions under which their live and work, he is endeavoring, either consciously or unconsciously, to tear the robe of liberty from free men and to subject them to the basest concept the shameful garb of slaves.

Whenever a governing official, whatever his capacity, attempts to regulate personal relations, such as those between the worker and employer, or to restrict personal rights on the basis of what he is pleased to call "equity and good conscience," and without the authority of definite law, he is applying the principle of personal government as distinct from government by law.

Whether he acts as an originator of such process, or simply follows a precedent set by others, he is, never-

Facist Lawyers Mobbed At Anti-Facist Trial

Florence, Italy, July 18.—Gaetano Salvemini, professor of history in the Florence University, is being tried here for alleged violation of the censorship laws recently enacted by the fascisti government of Italy.

Prof. Salvemini is an opponent of the facist regime. He is specifically charged with "slandering" Mussolini's government and the king and with breaking Mussolini's press censorship law by publishing the newspaper in which the anti-facist articles appeared.

Florence is a facist stronghold. When Salvemini's counsel left the court room a mob of Mussolini's supporters attacked them with such violence that a squad of carabineers had to fight the crowd for several minutes.

Rome, July 18.—The secretary of the facisti party declares that the party will not permit a general Italian parliamentary election until 1929 at the earliest and states that if conditions make it necessary the facisti-fascilled parliament will extend the life of the present legislature beyond that date.

HOME RULE DENIED

New York, July 18.—More than two score of the cities in this state have been thrown into a turmoil because of a decision by the court of appeals which negates the state legislature's home rule amendment. The suit was originally intended to restrain the operation of municipal busses in this city, but the court smashed the entire home rule system. The parties that started the suit now undo much of the harm they are responsible for. More than 40 cities have joined with New York city to appeal the decision.

OHIO PAPERS MERGE

Steubenville, Ohio, July 18.—The Gazette, published as a daily newspaper since 1865, has merged with the Herald-Star. One of the new owners controls the Marion Star, formerly owned by the late President Harding.

GOV'T OFFICIALS CALL BIG BIZ. DICTATORS

Washington, July 18.—Washington big business has run amuck in its effort to establish a dictatorship over the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, who are empowered by an act of congress to administer the laws of the district.

The police commissioner recently demoted a traffic inspector, who is under the jurisdiction of the District department. The commissioners approved the police commissioner's action.

The Board of Trade, despite the fact that the law gives the District commissioners jurisdiction over the police department, has a "police committee." The "police committee" reprimanded the District commissioners in a hot-worded resolution. The Board of Trade adopted the resolution and sent it to the commissioners.

The commissioners acknowledged the receipt of the resolution with the statement that the demotion stays put. So, for the time being at least, the Board of Trade has been called in its attempted dictatorship over the big-business-controlled Board of Trade dependent-appointed board of commissioners of the capital of the nation.

TEAPOT DOME LEASE IS NOT CLOSED CASE

Washington, July 18.—The refusal of Federal Judge Kennedy, at Cheyenne, to grant the government's request that the Teapot Dome case be reopened to hear new evidence makes it probable that this question will again be considered by the next congress.

Connected with the trial was the alleged transfer of $260,000 in liberty bonds to former Secretary of the Interior Fall's account by the Continental trading company, a Canadian concern. Last February Judge Kennedy refused the government's request for additional time in the prosecution of this charge. Proceedings were then started in Toronto to compel witnesses to testify and the supreme court of that city ruled that witnesses must testify. The main witness for the government fled to Africa. The government also started court proceedings in France, where other witnesses were located.

Almost to the hour that the trial ended in Judge Kennedy's court the government witnesses returned. They are now in this country, and the government intended that they be held if Judge Kennedy would reopen the case.

INDICTED JUDGE DIES; PLUNGED FROM AUTO

Jackson, Tenn., July 18.—Federal Judge Ross, who enjoined striking shop men, sentenced a labor editor to jail for six months and was recently indicted as a bank wrecker, was killed when his car plunged from a bridge near this city.

His death followed his indictment on 22 counts charging conspiracy, forgery, fraudulent breach of trust and larceny in connection with the failure of the Peoples' bank. At the time of his death he was under $25,000 bond.

When he enjoined striking shop men, Isaac Cohen, editor of the Memphis Labor Review, published an article on strikebreakers. Judge Ross ordered his arrest and sentenced him to six months in jail for contempt of court, although Cohen assured the court he did not have the injunction in mind. The decision was set aside on appeal.

Judge Ross' troubles started with the bank failure. It was discovered that he had drawn drafts for large sums of money on lawyers that were practicing in his court. The lawyers dishonored the drafts, and the bank holds the worthless paper.

STATE PRISONERS WIN PAY INCREASE

Albany, N. Y., July 18.—Inmates of state prisons in this state are to get a new working basis. Under the new law the inmates are entitled to 70 per cent of the net profits of the industries.

The wage scales have been fixed so the gross earnings will range from 35 to 55 cents per day, depending on the class of work done. The initial schedule provides only for workers in the shops and power house and repair men. Out of their earnings the workers will be required to pay for their maintenance. Because of their experimental nature, the rates may be purposely set at a low figure, it is said.

WOMEN ELIGIBLE AS JURORS

Chicago, July 18.—Superior Court Judge Philip L. Sullivan has ruled that the Illinois constitution does not debar women from jury service.

DENNIS DRISCOLL IS DEAD

Boston, July 18.—Dennis Driscoll, member of the Horseshoers' union, and old-time member of organized labor, died in this city. He was A. F. of L. fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union congress in 1904. In his later years he was an officer in the city prison.